

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Re: Application of: Kazuko SHINOZAKI et al.  
Serial No.: To be assigned  
Filed: Herewith  
For: **ENVIRONMENTAL STRESS-  
TOLERANT PLANTS**  
Examiner: David Kruse (Art Unit 1638)

MAIL STOP: PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

September 23, 2003

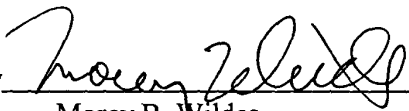
**LETTER RE: PRIORITY**

Sir:

Applicant hereby claims priority through U.S. Patent Application No. 09/301,217, of Japanese Patent Application No. 292348/1998 filed October 14, 1998. A certified copy of this Japanese application was submitted in parent U.S. Patent Application No. 09/301,217.

Respectfully submitted,

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